# HHC Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2020

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| Present: | Joe King, Diane Cooper-Currier, Kristian Allen, Gidget Stevens, La’Shonda Hamilton, Stephanie Pasquale, Megan Stuart, Miranda Eddy, Liz Vuillemot, Lindsay Bentley, Karen Goetz, Kelly Gonzalez, Renee Jensen, Allison Brooks, Danielle Johnson, Mary Rathbun, Amber VanderPloeg, Sue McMahon, Ben Lockwood, Sally Santangelo, Mat Roosa, Monica Brown, Sally Curran, Marty Skahen, Larkin Podsiedlik |
| Next meeting: | September 8, 2020, 2:30 pm, Location |
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1. Welcome and Roll call

Diane Cooper-Currier called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm. She welcomed our new members and new officer slate. Introductions were made.

1. Planning Grant

The Planning Grant budget is the grant that funds the HHC staff. The Project year is Nov 1 to Oct 31. We have a $15,000 surplus because we had a staffing gap and with COVID, there has not been as much travel for conferences. Sally Santangelo brought up the previous discussion to update plans both response to COVID and the normal strategic plan- possibly hiring a consultant for the planning. Megan would love to have some feedback/guidance in hiring a consultant, since right now the direct service is more difficult. Sally C wanted to know if the need is for the NOFA or updated after the next NOFA. Sally C thought that it was a good idea to at least have the groundwork laid out. Sue asked if we were allowed to use the funds for PPE. Megan will look into it; she think it’s more providing education for PPE and we will be researching the costs of consultant fees and possibly build into the next years budget. The coalition is set technologically. We could potentially extend but Megan would like to not continue the trend. Monica suggested bringing the Massachusetts group that started with a housing first model and bring a conversation for best practices. Amber will be connecting with Sally Santangelo about the reasons for the aging homeless being denied nursing home access. Monica mentioned in conjunction with the SPARC initiative addressing the huge racial equity gap.

1. NAEH COVID-19 Framework

Megan shared the NY-505 Framework for our COVID-19 response. The last meeting, the committee combed through Phases 1 and 2. Today we are focusing on 3 and 4. Megan asked for an update for safe transportation practices from Onondaga County. Monica said that Medicaid taxis can be utilized for that and if that is not available, Lyft is the substitute. Gidget has provided a lot of waivers and they have been able to do a lot of the process over the phone. Sally wanted to know if the waivers will be kept in post pandemic world because the phone system has been helpful. The phone interview waivers have been giving greater access to clients.

Megan asked if we are able to see who is getting denied for shelter. Monica shared the only ones that she knows of is criminal justice releases from down state and DOC has allowed parolees to go home to their families because of the pandemic. Amber shared that there are some people who are using their social security to travel to other places. There are some people who are not being honest on where they are coming from because they know that they could be denied.

Prevention/Diversion: we will be using CDBG funds for Onondaga County. ESG funds will do this for Cayuga. The state has been given entitlements to the rural counties. There is a cap for what they can request. Both Oswego and Cayuga are on the waiting list for it.

**Phase 3**: *Unsheltered persons plan*:

Cayuga does not have a formal street outreach.

Sheltered persons: avoiding sheltering high-risk Coronavirus individuals. Onondaga County has only done it a hand full of times because it was a state mandate. The national response is over 65, immunocompromised will be getting the housing openings. We historically have had a good focus of housing first. Kelly reported that there was a mobile testing unit that came to Freedom Commons. Screenings are happening daily.

Ensuring that all housed individuals have a good connection to healthcare. This is definitely something that we are trying to fix.

Megan asked if any board members who had any concerns with housing? Or medical treatment access? We will be re-convening the Healthcare and Housing committee in August. Diane thought it would be good to bring in more case management. It is a challenge to build relationships with those that are having funds provided.

We have been focusing on rent assistance.

Flexible funding pools: being able to provide some flexible funds for grocery or familial renting subsidies.

ESPRY money had been previously utilized for flexible funding.

1. Adjournment

Megan will be sending out a doodlepoll for the Healthcare and Housing Visions committee and she will also be researching spend down costs for the consultant and education possibility. She also asks for a recommendation for our health care worker board slot so that we can start the nomination process. If there are committees or workgroups that people think would be helpful, please let Megan know.

Megan will be cleaning up the phase 3 and will send out the NAEH Framework for thought process from the committee members.

Diane asked for any other concerns. Sally Santangelo will be sending out information for their virtual conferences.

Motion to Adjourn came from Sally Santangelo at 3:57.